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Appl. No.: 09/719,759

REMARKS

The last Office Action of October 20, 2004 has been carefully considered. Reconsideration of the instant application in view of the foregoing amendments and the following remarks is respectfully requested.

Claims 6, 9, 10 and 12-24 are pending in the application. Claim 16 has been amended. No claims have been canceled or added. No amendment to the specification has been made. No fee is due.

Claims 9, 10, 13-19, and 22-24 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Pat. No. 1,995,571 to Lott in view of U.S. Pat. No. 5,332,318 to Chiba.

Claims 12 and 20 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Lott in view of U.S. Pat. No. 4,336,971 to Reiter.

Claims 6 and 21 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Lott in view of U.S. Pat. No. 3,954,313 to Haenel.

Applicant has amended claim 16 by setting forth the single-piece configuration of the T-shaped ring.

Applicant respectfully disagrees with the Examiner's rejection of independent claims 9 and 16 for the following reasons:

The present invention is directed to a roller bearing, in particular a double-row radial cylindrical bearing, including an outer race (1) and an inner race (2) for guidance of a plurality of rollers (3) therebetween. The outer race (1) is provided interiorly with a circumferential (or annular) groove for receiving the

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annular rib (13) of a **single-piece** T-shaped ring (11), which is further provided with a slot (12) to afford the T-shaped ring some flexibility by allowing adjustment of the diameter.

The Lott reference describes a radial bearing having an inner race (14) formed with a groove (16) in which a **split** spring ring (16) is closely fitted to provide rigid abutment for two oppositely facing **continuous** rings (17). Thus, Lott describes the provision of two distinct components for arrangement between the rolling elements (13). The Examiner opined in the current office action that Lott discloses a *"T shaped ring which can be formed integrally"*. To support this assessment, the Examiner refers to the passage in col. 2, lines 18-20. This interpretation of Lott by the Examiner is not well taken. This passage reads as follows:

"the bearing rings 17 may be integrally united, a sufficiently deep groove being left to permit the spring 16 to be stretched over the sleeve when the bearing is assembled."

This passage clearly states that **only** the two rings (17) can form a unitary structure and there is no unitary structure between the rings (17) and the spring ring (16). Please note also, as stated above, that the rings (17) and the spring ring (16) are intended to define distinct components - spring ring (16) slotted, rings (17) continuous - so that Lott fails to teach or suggest in any way a provision of a single-piece construction of a T shaped ring, as set forth in claims 1 and 16.

The Examiner, while correctly acknowledging that Lott fails to disclose the

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provision of a groove and "T shaped ring" on the outer race, he failed, however, to properly interpret the Lott reference, because Lott also fails to disclose a **single-piece T shaped ring**.

The Chiba reference was applied by the Examiner to teach the placement of a groove and a T shaped ring on the outer race. In particular the Examiner referred to Fig. 2. Applicant respectfully disagrees with the Examiner's interpretation of Chiba and further submits that an artisan will not find motivation to make the combination as suggested by the Examiner.

Chiba describes a planetary gear unit whereby a planetary gear (6) is formed with a groove (13) for receiving a stop ring (14) and is supported on a shaft through intervention of rollers. Placed on either side of the stop ring (14) is a floating ring (15). Fig. 2 shows the provision of a unitary structure of the floating rings, designated by reference numeral 15a. Thus, Chiba, like Lott, at best discloses a **two-part** construction, whereby in Chiba the ring (15a) is floatingly arranged and thus is not even supported by the inner peripheral surface of the planetary gear.

Even when, for argument's sake, equating the planetary gear (6) of Chiba with an outer race, as set forth in the present invention - an interpretation that applicant respectfully disagrees with - a combination of Lott and Chiba does not arrive at the present invention because the combination merely results in a two-part configuration of two distinct rings. In addition, Lott fails to provide the artisan with any motivation to combine the references, as suggested by the Examiner because Lott teaches the provision of a groove in the inner sleeve only (col. 1,

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lines 23, 24). In the passage in col. 2, lines 15 to 21, Although Lott does refer to possible modifications, none of the stated modification relate to the provision of the groove at any location other than on the inner race.

For the reasons set forth above, it is applicant's contention that neither Lott nor Chiba, nor a combination thereof teaches or suggests the features of the present invention, as recited in claims 9 and 16 .

As for the rejection of the retained dependent claims, these claims depend on claims 9 and 16, share their presumably allowable features, and therefore it is respectfully submitted that these claims should also be allowed.

Withdrawal of the rejection of claims 6, 9, 10, and 12-24 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) and allowance thereof are thus respectfully requested.

Should the Examiner consider necessary or desirable any formal changes anywhere in the specification, claims and/or drawing, then it is respectfully requested that such changes be made by Examiner's Amendment, if the Examiner feels this would facilitate passage of the case to issuance. If the Examiner feels that it might be helpful in advancing this case by calling the undersigned, applicant would greatly appreciate such a telephone interview.

Respectfully submitted

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